

Minutes of General Meeting held on Thursday 14th October 2021

Present: Cllrs

Allan Morgans – Chair
Ivy Watts
Michael Cordiner
John Almond
Isla Watts
Amanda Curtis
Paul Sheldon
Martyn Holland
Margaret Narburgh - Clerk

Apologies:

Graham Davidson
Jac Armstrong

Members of the Public:

Tony King
Jayne Wilde

The Council is unable to facilitate requests to join the meeting via video conference, due to Open Reach and BT not having completed the work to install broadband connection.

291. Apologies

Cllrs Davidson and Armstrong sent their apologies due to work commitments.

278. Meeting Open to the Public

Jayne Wilde thanked the Council for its letter dated 10th September and asked for further clarification that the general public were able to speak and raise any issues or concerns when the meeting was open to the public. The Chair confirmed this was the case.

292. Declaration of Interest Statement

Circulated to the Councillors prior to the Meeting.

293. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Ivy and Isla Watts both declared an interest in Maes Ysgawen culvert and signed the declaration form at the meeting.

294. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting on 9th September 2021

Cllr Curtis proposed the Minutes be accepted, Cllr Almond seconded and all Councillors present accepted the Minutes as a true and accurate record.

295. Matters Arising from the Meeting on 9th September 2021

- 167/4 Still awaiting a response from DCC regarding the dropped kerb at the entrance to Maes Ysgawen Park.
- 220/b Bench at Tafarn Y Gelyn – on agenda for discussion
- 240/5 Millennium water fountain – arrange for plumber to repair and restore water supply ready for Spring 2022
- 259/1 New cork on noticeboard at Pant Du still needs replacing. Action: Chair to arrange
- 259/3 Llanferres noticeboard needs repairing – on agenda for discussion
- 272 Loggerheads noticeboard – on agenda
- 283/a Operation London Bridge – Cllrs Curtis and Almond agreed to meet with the Chair to discuss what could be put in place in the event of HMR Queen Elizabeth's passing
- 283/b LPFRA on agenda
- 283/d Maeshafn playing field road signs – still waiting for confirmation of date they will be installed
- 283/e Completed 7.10.21
- 283/g Completed 7.10.21
- 283/h Queens Jubilee – on agenda

283/c	Clerk to update Standing Orders to reflect changes in legislation to allow multi-access to meetings – on agenda
284	Completed 10.9.21
286	Completed 12.10.21
287	Completed 10.9.21
289	Completed 10.9.21
291/a	Completed 10.9.21
290/e	Completed 10.9.21
290/f	Not necessary – request from residents withdrawn

296. Correspondence List

The Clerk had circulated correspondence to Councillors as appropriate during the course of the month.

- a) Both the Chair and the Clerk have responded to Denbighshire CC survey regarding their level of service and stating the lack of response from some departments to correspondence was very frustrating
- b) The September Newsletter re Older Peoples Welfare has been published on the website
- c) The Green Flag Award plaques have arrived. The Chair has fixed one to Maesahfn playing field and will fix the other to Maes Ysgawen park within the next week. The Clerk has sent an article to News and Views to publicise the success
- d) The quarterly compliance report for the Website identified 5 minor issues all related to the labelling of photographs or illustrations which the Clerk has corrected
- e) Councillors agreed to accept Darren Millers invitation to attend a Council meeting.
Action: Clerk to make the arrangements
- f) Welsh Audit Office have notified of a delay in the completion of 2020-21 audit. Clerk has posted a notice on the website and noticeboards
- g) The Chair proposed the Council respond to One Voice Wales consultation document regarding tax on second homes and self-catering accommodation by suggesting the additional income generated should be ring fenced by County Councils to help first time home buyers.
Action: Clerk to send response
- h) The Chair has read the Independent Remuneration Panels draft report but could not recall which group Llanferres CC will fall into or the proposed changes to Councillor payments.
Action: Chair to review and report back at next meeting
- i) £200 contribution towards the new noticeboard in Loggerheads has been received from Denbighshire CC
- j) The Clerk sent CVSC an update on the £650 underspend on the grant for Maeshafn playing field. £250 has been spent installing the aqua drain to prevent flooding in the storage shed and £200 on grass seed and plants. Councillors agreed to spend the remaining £200 on materials to build bird and bat boxes. NWWT have agreed to run a workshop for local children to build and install them in the park and around the woods.
- k) 4 items of correspondence are to be considered under **Part II** of the agenda. Cllr Almond stated he was dismayed that members of the public had unredacted documents sent out under Freedom of Information requests and was disgusted that a recipient had then shared some of said documents with a third party who had not requested information from the Council.

297. LPFRA

Cllr Armstrong has been able to edit the existing lease agreement to extend it for another 30 years and draft a Deed of Surrender for submission to the Land Registry.

Action: Clerk to contact LPFRA for information required to complete the documents and find out the costs involved for lodging the documents with the Land Registry.

The draft letter supporting LPFRA's grant application to Clocaenog Wind Farm fund was approved by Councillors with one amendment.

Action: Clerk to add reference to 'landlord' in the letter and send to Sean Thomas

298. Amendment to Standing Orders – Multi Location Meetings

Cllr Cordiner asked to check the wording of the legislation introduced in May 2021 given the difficulties small councils have in complying with the requirement to hold multi-location meetings. The Clerk stated she had informed One Voice Wales, Denbighshire's monitoring officer and Darren Miller that the Council was unable to comply with the legislation and the reasons for this. Darren Miller has acknowledged the problem and has stated he will respond when he has made further enquires. Cllr Holland stated there is concern within Denbighshire CC about a number of Councils within their area who don't have the technology, facilities or funding to comply with this legislation but have not yet found a solution.

Action: Clerk to send copy of legislation to Councillors and put on agenda for next meeting.

Cllr Curtis to investigate technical options and costs for presentation at next meeting.

299. Training

The Clerk attended a webinar run by the ICO during the month but was disappointed as it contained only basic information she was already aware of. Councillors approved the Clerks request to attend an Information Management training session run by One Voice Wales on 27th October costing £30.

300. Audit Wales

The external auditors have not yet completed the audit of 2020-21 accounts due by 31st September. The Clerk has posted Public Notices on all seven noticeboards and the website informing the general public of this.

301. 2nd Quarter Review of Accounts

The Clerk reported income for the 6 months from April to end of September at £15,623 and expenditure of £6,095 giving an underspend of £9,529. Forecast to the end of March is income of £19,625 and expenditure of £14,964 giving a surplus of £4,661 due to £4272 VAT refund and expected saving on precepted expenditure. At the end of September there was £15,975 cash in the bank which is forecast to reduce to £12,786 by the end of March. Of this £2500 is ringfenced for 2022 Election, £2350 for Councillor payments and £200 for Maeshafn playing field. Available reserves are forecast to be £7736 at the end of this financial year. This represents 51% of the annual precept and well within the Government guidelines for holding no more than 80%. Cllr Almond stated he would be uncomfortable if available reserves were to fall below 50% of precept.

302. Planning Applications

21/2021/0799 revised – Rock Cottage, Loggerheads. Councillors had reviewed the amendments and noted more detailed information had been included on the drawings. After due consideration Councillors agreed to support the revised application subject to AONB recommendations.

Action: Clerk to notify Planning

303. County Councillors Report September 2021

Cllr Holland thanked Cllr Morgans for representing him at the meeting with Denbighshire CC to agree traffic signage on the approaches to Maeshafn. 30 mph signs will be installed at the three entrances to the village close to the existing village name signs along with 'children playing' signs closer to the playing field.

A494 Bee Friendly Verge

There will have to be some compromise in relation to the size of the A494 Bee Friendly Verge in Llanferres. As previously reported I had received a number of complaints about the height of the grass on the verge which was impacting on the visibility as you joined the A494 from Rectory Lane. The County has agreed to cut the

section of the verge outside the Druids but they will leave the Bee area in front of the Church. The verge has now been cut to help reseeded.

Untaxed and Uninsured Cars

Just a gentle reminder that untaxed and uninsured cars should not be parked on the public highway and just to let you know that the police are monitoring cars parked for any length of time on the highway.

Parking on Forestry Road

The consultation letters about the Counties proposed parking restrictions on Forestry road will be sent to local residents on the 13th October. You will be able to view the proposals on line via the Counties website and respond via the County Conversation section. A press release will be issued this week so that anyone can comment. Responses must be registered by the 5th November.

Levelling Up Fund

As previously mentioned Central Government has allocated money to Parliamentary seats as part of the Levelling Up Fund. Members of Parliament have contacted their local County Councils to look at projects and I submitted a suggestion that some of these funds should go to rural areas to finance such things as small car parks. This would relieve parking problems in many of our villages and provide parking for visitors who support the rural economy.

Sadly, the projects were no big enough for the Levelling Up fund but Cadwyn Clwyd will be managing grants of up to £30k for rural villages aimed at improving facilities and services. These grants may help us establish car parks in our area with possible additional support from the AONB.

Burley Hill Quarry

Tarmac announced at the last Quarry Liaison meeting that they intend to submit a planning application to extend the life of the Burley Hill Quarry for a further fifteen years on the 26th November. They will have completed all their surveys by the third week in October and they will then hold a consultation exercise between the 25th October and 7th November with a webinar event on the 4th November. They appear to be reluctant to hold public events because of covid but they will provide details of the application, surveys, etc via their website and in paper format on request.

Once the planning application has been submitted DCC will also hold a public consultation and the application will go before a full planning committee. Because of the nature of this application and all the public bodies involved this will take longer to process.

If granted they intend to use the waste material from the new excavations to back fill the current lake/hole. This will then create a new lake which will not have steep sides but will still be up to ten metres deep.

They would intend to blast every two months dropping fifty thousand tons each time and a mobile crushing unit would be used in the quarry.

Finally, Tarmac have announced that they will not be undertaking any test blasting prior to the planning application as originally stated.

I would call a public meeting (covid allowing) once the planning application has been submitted.

Regional Corporate Joint Committees

Welsh Government has announced the formation of new Regional Corporate Joint Committees which will initially be staffed from the existing County Councils and cover such things as Regional Transport (which had already been taken from County Councils), Strategic Development and Economic Well Being.

These new bodies will have their own chief Execs and Officers and could also include unelected co-opted members. They are planning more legislation in the future and this will be more than likely the thin end of the wedge in their third attempt to do away with Local County Councils and the formation of Regional Authorities.

Ward Boundaries

Finally, the Wales Electoral Commission has confirmed the new County Council ward boundaries for Denbighshire and that they will be in place for next year's local elections.

Sadly, they have ignored all objections to the proposed changes for our ward and the Community of Llanferres will therefore be joining Llanbedr in a new ward to be called the Moel Famau ward.

The remainder of our ward namely the Communities of Llanarmon Yn Ial and Llandegla will become the Alyn Valley Ward.

These changes do not affect the current Community Council boundaries.

304. Projects Update

- a. Tafarn y Gelyn Bench - still no response.

Action: Clerk to send letter to Michelle Gudgeon stating the Councils intention to install a bench and will assume there is no objection unless we hear otherwise.

- b. The new noticeboard at Loggerheads will be installed by Countryside Services on 21st October.

305. Maintenance in the Community

- a. Quote of £50 received to repair Maes Ysgawen culvert. Cllr Cordiner proposed accepting, Cllr Almond seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

Action: Clerk to notify White Oak Properties and arrange for work to be done.

- b. Millennium water fountain – Councillors agreed to appoint contractor to repair ready for use in Spring 2022

- c. Llanferres noticeboard need repairing and the Chair proposed precepting for a replacement in 2022-23.

Action: Cllrs Morgans and Almond to undertake repair to prevent doors falling off.

306. Banking

The Clerk had sent Cllr Ivy Watts the August Bank Statements and accounts for checking against the Internet banking transactions. Cllr Watts confirmed all were correct.

307. Payment of Bills and Invoices

The following bills were presented for authorisation to pay

1. AVOW – payroll invoice for September 2021	£315.90
2. One Voice Wales – training	£30.00
3. Signs Workshop – Loggerheads noticeboard	£1236.00
4. British Red Cross – donation to poppy appeal	£60.00
Total	£1641.90

Cllr Cordiner proposed all bills be paid, Cllr Almond seconded, and all Councillors present voted in favour.

Action: Clerk to pay all bills on schedule

308. Other Matters Brought to the Councils Attention

1. Cllr Cordiner stated the tree in Tafarn y Gelyn is now shedding its branches and there is a real danger of damage to cars and injury to passers-by.

Action: Chair to notify Denbighshire CC

2. Cllr Cordiner stated the pond in Tafarn y Gelyn is now full of water and suggested contacting David Clough to have a life belt fixed to the fence as a safety precaution.

Action: Chair to write to D Clough

3. After due discussion Councillors agreed to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee by planting a tree and erecting a memorial stone and plaque.

Action: Chair to speak to Celtic Stone, and Cllr Cordiner to see if he still has a stone gate post that could be used.

4. Cllr Almond agreed to do the reading at the Armistice day service and suggested asking Mary Barton if she would like to lay the wreath in memory of Cllr Barton. Action: Clerk to speak to Mrs Barton

5. The Clerk stated 6 months has passed and it was time for Councillors to review the resolution at the meeting on 11th March regarding Maeshafn playing field and orchard area that: *'work should continue as planned and in the event of issues being raised the matter would be re-considered'*. As no issues have been reported to the Council, Cllr Cordiner proposed the matter be closed. Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

Cllr Morgans proposed closing the meeting at 21.06 to move onto **Part II** of the agenda, Cllr Cordiner seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. The Chair thanked members of the public for attending and asked them to leave.

Part II

1. Councillors considered the content of an email received from a member of the public regarding an alleged data breach and agreed the wording of a response. Action: Clerk to send Councils response.
2. The contents of three items of correspondence from the ICO were noted and appropriate action agreed.

Cllr Cordiner proposed closing the meeting, Cllr Curtis seconded, and the meeting was closed at 21.36 pm.

**The next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 11th November 2021
starting at 7.30 pm at the Llanferres Village Hall**